

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-01 INR-07
L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15
USIA-06 /058 W
-----160405Z 091651 /75

R 151445Z APR 77
FM AMEMBASSY MOSCOW
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 6307
INFO USIA WASHDC
AMEMBASSY BELGRADE
AMEMBASSY BERLIN
USMISSION BERLIN
AMEMBASSY BUCHAREST
AMEMBASSY BUDAPEST
AMCONSUL LENINGRAD
AMCONSUL MUNICH
AMEMBASSY PRAGUE
AMEMBASSY SOFIA
AMEMBASSY WARSAW

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E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: PFOR, SCUL, UR, US
SUBJECT: MFA PROTESTS EMBASSY SHOWINGS OF "ANTI-SOVIET" FILMS

1. SUMMARY: POLITICAL COUNSELOR WAS CALLED IN TO MFA
APRIL 14 BY TRIFONOV OF USA DIVISION AND GIVEN NON-PAPER
PROTESTING SHOWINGS OF FILMS "DOCTOR ZHIVAGO" AND "GIRL
FROM PETROVKA" BY EMBASSY TO INVITED SOVIET GUESTS.
POLITICAL COUNSELOR CALLED ON MFA APRIL 15 AND RETURNED
NON-PAPER TO TRIFONOV, REJECTING PROTEST AS UNWARRANTED
ATTEMPT AT INTERFERENCE IN INTERNAL AFFAIRS OF EMBASSY.
END SUMMARY.

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2. POLITICAL COUNSELOR WAS CALLED TO MFA APRIL 14
BY TRIFONOV OF USA DIVISION. (CHETVERIKOV, HE
EXPLAINED, WAS AWAY ON LEAVE.) TRIFONOV READ THE
FOLLOWING NON-PAPER:

BEGIN TEXT: "IT HAS BECOME KNOWN THAT THE AMERICAN
EMBASSY HAS RECEIVED IN MOSCOW AND IS ORGANIZING SHOWINGS

OF THE FILMS "DOCTOR ZHIVAGO" AND "GIRL FROM PETROVKA," WHICH CRUDELY FALSIFY SOVIET HISTORY AND REPRESENT THE LIFE OF SOVIET PEOPLE IN A DELIBERATELY TENDENCIES AND SLANDEROUS MANNER."

"GIVEN THE CHARACTER OF THE FILMS, IT IS PERFECTLY EVIDENT THAT THE ACTIONS OF THE EMBASSY AND ITS MEMBERS IS SHOWING THESE FILMS -- NOT TO SPEAK OF SENDING INVITATIONS TO SOVIET ORGANIZATIONS AND TO INDIVIDUAL SOVIET CITIZENS -- CANNOT BE ASSESSED EXCEPT AS FRANKLY PROVOCATORY AND AS NOT CONFORMING TO THE PURPOSE OF DEVELOPING NORMAL SOVIET-AMERICAN RELATIONS."

"IN CALLING THE EMBASSY'S MOST SERIOUS ATTENTION TO THIS MATTER, THE MINISTRY DEMANDS AN IMMEDIATE STOP TO THE SHOWING OF THE ABOVE MENTIONED FILMS AND THE PREVENTION IN THE FUTURE OF SIMILAR ACTIONS." END TEXT.

3. POLITICAL COUNSELOR REPLIED THAT HE NOTED THE MINISTRY'S PROTEST AND WOULD REPORT IT TO HIS SUPERIORS. HE NOTED THAT HEDID NOT WISH TO BECOME INVOLVED IN ANY DEBATE ON THE MERITS OF THESE FILMS. HOWEVER, IT HAS BEEN A LONG-STANDING PRACTICE BY THE EMBASSY AND ITS MEMBERS TO SHOW FILMS ON EMBASSY PREMISES AND IN APARTMENTS. TRIFONOV INTERJECTED THAT THE MINISTRY WAS NOT OBJECTING TO THE SHOWING OF FILMS BY AMERICANS AND FOR AMERICANS, BUT TO THE FACT THAT THESE PARTICULAR FILMS WERE BEING SHOWN TO SOVIET GUESTS.

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4. ON APRIL 15 POLITICAL COUNSELOR CALLED ON TRIFONOV, STATED THAT HE WAS INSTRUCTED TO REJECT CATEGORICALLY MFA PROTEST AS AN UNWARRANTED ATTEMPT TO INTERFERE IN INTERNAL WORKINGS OF OUR EMBASSY, AND THEN RETURNED MFA COPY OF NON-PAPER TO TRIFONOV. LATTER RESPONDED THAT HE CANNOT ACCEPT EMBASSY POSTION. MATTER IS CLEARLY WITHIN COMPETENCE OF SOVIET AUTHORITIES WHEN IT IS CASE OF EMBASSY EXTENDING INVITATIONS TO SOVIET CITIZENS TO VIEW FILMS WHICH SLANDER THE SOVIET UNION. TRIFONOV REITERATED DEMAND THAT SUCH INVITATIONS CEASE. POLITICAL COUNSELOR STATED THAT HE MADE HIS STATEMENT AND HAD NOTING MORE TO ADD. TRIFONOV ASKED WHETHER THIS MEANT THAT EMBASSY WOULD CONTINUE ITS ACTIONS. POLITICAL COUNSELOR REPLIED THAT MEMBERS OF EMBASSY WOULD CONTINUE TO SHOW FILMS, AS THEY HAVE FOR YEARS, AND WOULD CONTINUE TO INVITE GUESTS OF THEIR CHOICE. HE HAD NOTHING MORE TO ADD. AFTER PAUSE, TRIFONOV OBSERVED THAT MATTER INVOLVES ONLY TWO SPECIFIC FILMS AND AGAIN ASKED IF EMBASSY INTENDS TO CONTINUE TO INVITE SOVIET CITIZENS TO SEE THEM. HE REPEATED DEMAND

THAT THIS PRACTICE SHOULD CEASE AT ONCE. REITERATING
OUR REJECTION, POLITICAL COUNSELOR SAID HE
HAD NOTHING MORE TO ADD. TRIFONOV CONCLUDED, "WELL,
WE WILL SEE."

5. COMMENT. EMBOFFS HAVE IN FACT SHOWN "ZHIVAGO" AND
"PETROVKA" TO SOVIET CITIZENS. IN MEMORY
OF EMBOFFS NOW IN MOSCOW, THIS IS FIRST TIME MFA HAS
DEMANDED THAT A FILM NOT BE SHOWN TO SOVIET GUESTS.
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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01-Jan-1994 12:00:00 am
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: ANTICOMMUNIST, FILMS, DIPLOMATIC PROTESTS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Sent Date: 15-Apr-1977 12:00:00 am
Decaption Date: 01-Jan-1960 12:00:00 am
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 22 May 2009
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1977MOSCOW05143
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Expiration:
Film Number: D770132-0569
Format: TEL
From: MOSCOW
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1977/newtext/t19770453/aaaabtpf.tel
Line Count: 126
Litigation Code IDs:
Litigation Codes:
Litigation History:
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Message ID: 4de998a4-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
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Original Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
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Previous Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
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Retention: 0
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 04-Feb-2005 12:00:00 am
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review Media Identifier:
Review Release Date: n/a
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Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
SAS ID: 2794883
Secure: OPEN
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TAGS: PFOR, SCUL, UR, US
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Type: TE
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